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in connection with the affairs of the academy." The secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science similarly was offered storage, office rooms and post-office facilities in the institution.

From Mr. Arnold Hague, home secretary of the National Academy of Sciences, the following communication has been received at the institution:

"At a meeting of the National Academy of Sciences held April 17, the secretary of the academy was requested to express to the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution the sincere thanks for the facilities afforded the academy during its sessions in Washington.

"The secretary was also requested to express the thanks of the academy for the room assigned to the academy for the use of its secretary and the keeping of the necessary files and papers, and also for the use of the members of the academy during their visits to Washington."

Dr. L. O. Howard, permanent secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, has sent a letter of acceptance in the following form:

"The council of this association, at its spring meeting held in Washington on April 17, passed a formal and hearty vote of thanks to you for your great courtesy to the association in setting aside for its use storage and office rooms and a post-office box in the Smithsonian Institution."

By the location of the offices of these national scientific societies in the Smithsonian Institution, the institution becomes a clearing-house of national scientific learning. In this manner are forwarded the objects named in the will of James Smithson, the document by the terms of which the institution was founded, 'the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men.'

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE city council of Jena has given a plot of land, on which a philogenetic museum will be established in honor of Professor Ernst Heinrich Haeckel.

IN honor of Lord Lister's eightieth birthday the *Münchener medizinische Wochen-*

*schrift* has printed a German translation of his articles, containing the rudiments of the antiseptic theory as applied to the treatment of wounds, which began to appear in the *Lancet* of March 16, 1867.

PROFESSOR ADAM POLITZER will this year retire from the active duties of the chair of otology at the University of Vienna, and it is proposed to present to him a gold medal. Those who wish to take part in this testimonial and to secure copies of the medal should address Dr. G. Kaufmann, Vienna, VI., Mariahilferstrasse, 37.

M. DESLANDRES, of the Astrophysical Observatory at Meudon, has been elected president of the Astronomical Society of France.

AMBASSADOR BRYCE formally presented to Professor Ernest W. Brown, of Haverford College, the Royal Astronomical Society gold medal for 1907 (awarded last February), before the opening of the afternoon session of the American Philosophical Society, on Friday, April 19. Ambassador Charlemagne Tower and a large number of other members of the society and their friends were present.

PROFESSOR GEORGE L. MEYLAN, of Columbia University, has been elected president of the American Physical Education Association.

PRESIDENT IRA REMSEN, of the Johns Hopkins University, will make the principal address at the commencement exercises of the Michigan School of Mines.

MR. J. D. BOWMAN, secretary of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, has announced that, although the foundation has declined to admit state universities to the accepted list of beneficiaries of the fund, it occasionally grants retiring allowances to men in state institutions who have rendered distinguished academic service. In accordance with that plan the executive committee of the foundation has given retiring allowances to the following: E. Benjamin Andrews, chancellor of the University of Nebraska, who has been a prominent teacher and educator for thirty years. Francis H. Smith, for more than fifty years professor of natural philosophy at the University of Virginia. William V. Folwell, for fifteen years president

of the University of Minnesota and now professor of economics in that university. Amos N. Currier, for forty years professor of Latin and Greek in the University of Iowa and now dean of the college of liberal arts at that institution.

It is announced that the Lowell Observatory expedition to the Andes for the purpose of observing the apposition of Mars and the eclipse of the sun in July next will be in charge of Professor D. P. Todd, head of the astronomical department of Amherst College. He will be accompanied by Mrs. Todd, A. G. Illse, mechanic, and E. C. Slipper, of the Lowell Observatory, an expert photographer. The party will sail on May 11 for Colon.

PROFESSOR T. A. JAGGAR, JR., of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has gone to Alaska, where he will study the seismic and volcanic conditions.

DR. GEORGE B. GORDON, of the Free Museum of Science and Art of the University of Pennsylvania, will this summer make an expedition to Alaska to make ethnological studies and collections.

DR. CHARLES S. PROSSER, professor of geology in Ohio State University, has a leave of absence during the present year, and has spent considerable time in comparing Ohio material with type or authentic specimens in Cornell and Columbia University museums, in the American Museum of Natural History and in the New York State Museum.

THE University of Upsala will commemorate the bicentenary of the birth of Linnæus on May 23 and 24, and on May 25 the exercises will be continued at the Royal Academy of Sciences, Stockholm.

THE botanical seminar of the University of Nebraska will celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Linné (Linnæus) on the twenty-third of May, instead of the earlier date announced some time ago. The program includes an address by Dr. Roscoe Pound, a paper on 'Prelinnean Botany' by Dr. Clements, one by Dr. Bessey on the 'Position of Linné in Botany,' and one by Dr. Ward on 'Linné as a Zoologist and Physician.' Following the program there will be a convocation

of the seminar at which the usual refreshments will be served.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY will unveil bronze tablets in honor of eleven Americans in the Hall of Fame on May 30, including memorials of Louis Agassiz and Maria Mitchell.

IN memory of Pierre Curie a medallion is about to be placed in his laboratory in the Municipal School of Physics and Chemistry.

DR. CARL LUDWIG ROMINGER, the veteran paleontologist, and for fourteen years the state geologist of Michigan, died at his home at Ann Arbor, Michigan, on April 22, at the age of 86 years.

DR. FRANZ KJELLMAN, professor of botany at Upsala University since 1883, has died at the age of sixty-one years.

DR. ALBERT VON MOSETIG-MOORHOF, professor of surgery in the University of Vienna, was drowned on April 26.

THE collection of photographs and autograph letters of the members of the National Academy of Sciences since its organization, made by Dr. Marcus Benjamin, has been purchased by an anonymous donor and presented to the academy.

THE tenth Congress of Polish Men of Science and Physicians will be held this year at Lemberg some time between June 16 and July 24. There will be a scientific and medico-hygienic exposition in connection with the congress.

THE seventh International Congress of Physiologists will be held this year at Heidelberg, August 13-16, under the presidency of Professor A. Kossel. The previous congresses were held at Basle, in 1889; Liège, in 1892; Berne, in 1895; Cambridge, in 1898; Turin, in 1901, and Brussels, in 1904.

THE New York Botanical Garden has arranged its course of spring lectures, to be delivered in the lecture hall of the museum building of the garden, Bronx Park, on Saturday afternoons, at four o'clock, as follows:

April 27—'The Life Story of a Tree,' by Dr. C. Stuart Gager.

May 4—'The Flowers of Trees and Shrubs Growing Wild near New York City,' by Dr. N. L. Britton.

May 11—'Jamaica: Its Flora, Scenery and Recent Disaster,' by Dr. M. A. Howe.

May 18—'Water Lilies and other Aquatic Plants; their Relation to Horticulture,' by Mr. G. V. Nash.

May 25—'The Influence of Vegetation in the Formation of Recent and Ancient Swamps,' by Dr. Arthur Hollick.

June 1—'Some Little-known Edible Fruits of the United States,' by Dr. H. H. Rusby.

In order to provide a method for viewing the collections of the garden under guidance, an aid will leave the front door of the museum building every week day afternoon at three o'clock, to escort all who may wish to accompany him. The routes will be as follows: Monday, Hemlock Forest and Herbaceous Garden; Tuesday, Pinetum; Wednesday, Fruticetum and North Meadows; Thursday, deciduous arboretum, nurseries, propagating houses; Friday, public conservatories; Saturday, museums.

*Nature* states that the Port Erin Biological Station has never been more fully used by workers in marine biology than during the present Easter vacation. From the last week in March onwards throughout April, systematic collecting at sea and investigations in the laboratory have been actively pursued by as many biologists as can be comfortably accommodated. During the first half of April ten to twelve investigators occupied seats in the laboratory, and about the middle of the month a dozen senior students came in addition. The researchers include Professor B. Moore (biochemistry), Dr. H. Roaf (physiology of crustacea), Mr. J. Pearson (cancer), Mr. R. D. Laurie (biometrics), Mr. W. J. Dakin (Pecten), Professor Herdman, Mr. Wollaston and Mr. Gunn, all from Liverpool University; Professor Hickson, Mr. Chaffers and Mr. Whitnall, from the Victoria University of Manchester; Mr. Unwin, from the University of Leeds; and Mr. Chadwick, the resident naturalist. Plankton collections, both surface and deep, are being taken periodically, at stated localities, over a limited area for statistical purposes, from the steam yacht *Ladybird*, and the usual sea-fish hatching and distribution of larval plaice is in progress.

WE learn from the *British Medical Journal* that the medico-historical collections of the 'Empress-Frederick House for Higher Medical Study' were recently opened. Professor Schjerning, Director-general of the Army Medical Department, was present, and the Prussian Ministry of Education, and the Imperial Board of Health sent delegates. Professor E. Hollander, to whose skill in collecting and special knowledge of medical history, the collection owes the greater part of its objects, made the opening speech. He pointed out the value of a historical collection for teaching purposes. It gives students the best insight into medicine and therapeutics of past ages, showing in what manner medical aid was carried out, and what were the notions entertained by doctors and laity as to the nature of disease. The collection was then inspected; it contains originals and copies of ancient apparatus, oil paintings, water colors, engravings, etc., state and municipal rescripts, coins, medals and many miscellaneous objects of interest. A special division of the collection has been set apart for sending on loan to other university towns.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

MR. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER has given to the University of Chicago land fronting the south side of Midway Plaisance, extending from Madison Avenue to Cottage Grove Avenue. This property is said to have been acquired by Mr. Rockefeller at a cost of \$1,500,000 and to be now of considerably greater value.

WILLIAMS COLLEGE will receive \$192,000 by the death of E. W. Currier.

It is announced that a new physical laboratory will be erected at Princeton University through gifts whose source is not announced.

By the recent death of Mrs. Eliza Orne Ropes at Salem, Mass., public bequests to various institutions, amounting to \$1,500,000, made in trust by Mary Putnam Ropes, who died in 1903, were released. Of these Harvard will receive a bequest to endow the Nathaniel Ropes professorship of political economy. If, after the endowment of the professorship, any surplus remains it will go to the Peabody Museum of Archeology and Ethnology.